

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT,  
1875.

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ANNUAL REPORT

—ON—

THE HEALTH

OF THE

WHITWORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL

DURING 1895.

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ALEXANDER WELSH, M.D., Whitworth,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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HOWARD, PRINTER, MARKET STREET.



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# THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Consists of the following Members :

CHAIRMAN—MR. R. S. CLOSE.

MESSRS. THOMAS SMITHSON,  
W. E. WHITWORTH.  
WILLIAM LAW,  
B. F. STUTTARD,  
ARTHUR TURNER,  
WILLIAM HOLT,  
WILLIAM MYCOCK.

# Whitworth District Council.

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## MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT, FOR THE YEAR 1895.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to your consideration, the Annual Health Report of the Whitworth District Council, according to instructions received from the Local Government Board.

The area of the Whitworth District Council is 6,200 acres.

The estimated population for the year is 10,100.

### BIRTHS.

During the year there were 207 births registered, 21 less than 1894, viz., males 123, females 84; giving a birth rate of 20·4; per 1,000. The rate for preceding years being:—

1884.....	26·3	1890.....	21·0
1885.....	26·3	1891.....	25·2
1886.....	28·2	1892.....	23·0
1887.....	22·4	1893.....	24·1
1888.....	20·6	1894.....	23·3
1889.....	23·0	1895.....	20·4

The natural increase of the population by excess of births over deaths is 21.

### DEATHS.

During the year 186 deaths were registered, viz.: males 95; females 91, giving a death rate of 18·4 per 1,000.

The rate for the preceding years being as under ;—

1884.....	14·6	1890.....	16·0
1885.....	16·5	1891.....	26·7
1886.....	17·8	1892.....	16·7
1887.....	16·5	1893.....	18·1
1888.....	17·6	1894.....	14·3
1889.....	13·8	1895.....	18·4

The following table gives the ages at which the deaths occurred ;—

Under 1 year.....	37	} 56
One and under 5 years.....	19	
Five and under 15 „ .....	12	} 130
Fifteen and „ 25 „ .....	8	
Twenty-five and under 65.....	70	
Sixty-five and upwards .....	40	
		<hr/>
		186 186
		<hr/>

The following table also gives the deaths during the respective quarters of the years

	1893	1894	1895
First quarter.....	43	42	57
Second „ .....	39	33	54
Third „ .....	45	28	31
Fourth „ .....	50	37	44
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		177	186
		<hr/>	<hr/>

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

We have had 37 deaths under one year, or 8 more than the preceding year, which is equal to a fifth of the total deaths ; also 19 deaths at one year, and under five, giving a total infantile death per centage of 30·1.

The proportion of deaths under one year to 1,000 registered births is 178·7, for the preceding year it was 127·1, and for the year 1893, 177·9.



The following table shows the deaths under one year for previous years ;—

1886.....	42	1891.....	59
1887.....	39	1892.....	34
1888.....	46	1893.....	42
1889.....	51	1894.....	29
1890.....	37	1895.....	37

### CAUSES OF MORTALITY.

Small-pox 1 ; Scarlatina 6 ; Diphtheria 1 ; Whooping Cough 1 ; Enteric Fever 2 ; Diarrhœa 3 ; Phthisis 14 ; Broncho-Pneumonia 45 ; Heart Disease 11 ; Injuries none ; total 84. Other diseases 102.

### ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

The Zymotic death rate although higher than the preceding year is not an unfavourable one, considering the amount of Zymotic disease in the district, and is equal to 1·4 per 1000.

The rate for preceding years being ;—

1882.....	3 5	1889.....	1·8
1883.....	1·6	1890.....	0·6
1884.....	2 8	1891.....	3 07
1885.....	1·4	1892.....	1·2
1886.....	2·05	1893.....	1·8
1887.....	3 01	1894.....	0·51
1888.....	1·2	1895.....	1·4

### SMALL-POX.

I have to report the notification of Five cases—one case not notified—and one death from this disease during the year.

The history, origin and introduction of the disease, as far as I could find out, is as follows.

In the July—August Death Returns there was registered (on the 19th of August) a death at Facit from “Chicken-pox”—not a notifiable disease—of a child aged two months.

From my notes of the case I find that the father of the child had been to Oldham where Small-pox was



prevalent. He began to be ill on the 13th of July, was off work for a few days, and had a slight papular rash on the forehead and arms. He was attended by a local medical man. His wife also did not feel so well, and both were better in about a week. Fourteen days later another child aged two years sickened. Two days later a rash made its appearance, extending to the forehead and extremities, of a more copious nature. On the 12th of August (sixteen days later) a baby aged two months sickened, and was copiously covered with a rash on the face, and died on the 19th, and the death registered as "Chicken-pox." On the 20th of August a neighbour, visitor and nurse-helper, aged 36 years, sickened, had well marked Confluent Small-pox, and died on the 3rd of Sept. This case is the one not notified.

On the 7th of September the husband of the last case sickened, and went through the usual course of the disease.

On the 20th of September a servant of the District Council, employed to destroy the clothes and bedding of the other cases, also sickened, and was removed to the Hospital.

On the 21st another case was reported—could not trace it—and also was removed to the Hospital.

On the 25th of October, two sons of the man employed by the District Council, sickened—passed through a mild form, and were removed to the Hospital. All the cases were unvaccinated, with the exception of the two latter.

## MEASLES

Ceased to be notifiable after April 30th, 1893, and like the previous year, I have not received any information of its presence in the district.

## SCARLATINA.

Eighty-two cases of Scarlatina have been notified, and six deaths registered. The epidemic has been of a mild character—indeed of such a nature that a large number of the cases have been allowed to run about, and go to school, until the peeling of the skin has shown the true

nature of the disease. This peculiar characteristic condition has not been confined to our district only, as I have reason to know that the same symptoms and progression have marked the epidemic in the surrounding districts, and its very mildness has been the chief factor in raising the disease to the proportions of an all round epidemic. As stated we have had six deaths, and they have occurred as under ;

One	in Whitworth Ward	in February.
Two	"	March.
One	"	June.
One	in Facit Ward	in August.
One	"	November.

## WHOOPING COUGH.

One death has been reported in Shawforth Ward, in March, and as far as I know this is the only case registered or notified during the year.

## CROUP AND DIPHTHERIA.

I am pleased to have to report the entire absence of Croup for the year. One fatal case of Diphtheria was notified in Shawforth Ward, in November. As stated in last year's Annual Report, there has been a steady decrease in the number of Croup cases, but I am at present unable to state definitely, on existing evidence, the real cause of this satisfactory condition. I have, however, a bias in favour of a purer water supply.

## TYPHOID FEVER.

Nine cases have been notified, and two deaths registered, one in Shawforth Ward in September, and one in Whitworth Ward in November.

The fatal case at Shawforth occurred at Duckworth Bank Farm.

It was distinctly traceable to both defective sanitation and water pollution. The farm was inspected by your surveyor and myself, and we found a most unsatisfactory

and dangerous state of drainage and water supply. The drainage from the slop stone opened directly on to the land, soaked into the foundations, and constituted a perilous cesspool.

The water supply ran along an open drain, received the surface discharge of the adjoining lands and emptied itself into a much too small and filthy cistern. The cattle were removed to an adjoining farm, and the necessary instructions given by the surveyor to make whatever alterations he thought desirable, to put the farm into a habitable and proper sanitary condition.

The second fatal case occurred at Spring Cottages, and like many other doubtful cases, was not traceable either to defective sanitation, water pollution, or milk supply.

### DIARRHŒA.

Three deaths have been registered during the year. One, aged 9 months, at Shawforth ; One, aged 1 month, at Shawforth ; and One, aged 15 months, at Facit.

The early age, and the late season of the year, point to defective nutrition as the cause of these deaths.

### ERYSIPELAS.

Thirteen cases have been notified during the year, and no deaths registered.

Most of the cases were of an exceedingly mild nature, and I still hold the opinion that the notification of this disease is unnecessary notwithstanding its bacilliary origin.

### PHTHISIS.

Fourteen deaths have been registered—one more than the previous year—two in Healey Ward ; six in Whitworth Ward ; five in Facit Ward ; and one in Shawforth Ward.



The following table is interesting as it shows the districts in which the disease has been most fatal since the census of 1891 ;

	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Healey	2	4	1	2	2
Whitworth	10	8	3	6	6
Facit	6	5	4	4	5
Shawforth	2	2	2	1	1

## PNEUMONIA AND BRONCHITIS.

Forty-five deaths have been registered during the year—an increase of ten on the preceding year.

The following table gives the number of deaths from the year 1887 ;

1887.....	45	1891.....	95
1888.....	43	1892.....	40
1889.....	36	1893.....	43
1890.....	40	1894.....	35
1895.....	45.		

## HEART DISEASE

Caused 11 deaths—an increase of one on the previous year, and for the preceding years as under ;—

1887.....	6	1891.....	8
1888.....	14	1892.....	8
1889.....	11	1893.....	7
1890.....	12	1894.....	5
1895.....	11		

## Systematic Inspection and Procedure.

I have made the usual systematic inspection of the district, so as to cover the recommendations of the several “Memoranda” issued by the Local Government Board.

## REMOVAL OF NIGHT SOIL

Is at present continued on the “Pail System,” but active operations are now going on to hasten the carrying out of the precipitation and sewerage works.

## HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

I am glad to state that we have now secured a Hospital for Small-pox cases. Had it not been for this very timely assistance the consequence of the presence of Small-pox in the district must have been alarming and disastrous.

## COW SHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Although the farm buildings and utensils are generally all that could be desired, there is not that attention given to personal cleanliness which one might otherwise wish to see practised, and there is room for much improvement in this respect.

## ANALYSIS.

No analysis has been undertaken during the year.

## Summary of Nuisance Inspector's Report.

*For the year ending December 30th, 1895.*

Area of the district, 6,200.

Population in 1891, 9,766.

Number of Closets on the Pail system, 1338, and of Ash places, 739, all of which are cleansed weekly by day work, employing six men and three horses.

Eight slaughter-houses have been kept in fair order, and no complaints of nuisances arising therefrom have been made during the year.

It has not been necessary to take proceedings for the removal of nuisances during the year, in all cases verbal notice only was necessary to remove the cause of complaint.

In consequence of an outbreak of Small-pox in September, it became necessary for the Council to provide a place for isolating the cases. Fortunately the Council had purchased 13 acres of land for sewage works disposal, and on the land, at a considerable distance from the intended works, were six cottages. At the time of the purchase they were in a dilapidated state, but had been put into a tenantable state of repair before the outbreak and were partly occupied by workmen in the employ of the Council. The tenants were removed on very short

notice, and three of the houses were furnished and fitted up as a Hospital, with beds and all the necessary furniture, one house being reserved for the nurses.

The block of cottages stand with their ends north and south, the fronts of three of them being easterly, and the others westerly. They are through houses, each having a living room, and scullery, and two bedrooms.

It is the north-westerly block which has been converted into a Hospital.

It is necessary to say that there is a footpath along the westerly side of the cottages, and the levels are such that the floor of the house at the northerly end is on a level with the bedroom floors of the other houses, so that by breaking doorways through the party walls between the houses, the Hospital is practically on one floor. The bottom floors were used by the nurses, the convalescent patients, and a store room. One small room was made into a disinfecting room for the patients' clothes and the bed clothes. A new wash-house was built, separate and detached from the Hospital, and during the epidemic the footpath, which is very little used, was diverted and fenced off from the building.

The entrance to the Hospital is at the northerly end, and there is a lobby 7 feet 2 inches long by 3 feet 9 inches wide, and adjoining is a scullery and pantry 17 feet by 7 feet 2 inches. The lobby leads into a room 21 feet by 14 feet 3 inches, and 8 feet 3 inches in height, and it is lighted by windows on each side.

Adjoining this room are two bedrooms or wards, one 12 feet 9 inches by 9 feet 8 inches, and the other 12 feet 9 inches by 11 feet, then forward are two other bedrooms of a similar size, and two other rooms over cottage No. 3 reserved for the nurses.

There are fire places in all the rooms, all are well lighted, all the windows are sliding sashes, and the place is in a good state of repair.

There are six beds, two being reserved for the nurses.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER WELSH, M.D.





